

# South Yakima Conservation District

State Legislative District #15  
Congressional District #4

## Other Accomplishments



13 individual irrigation efficiency evaluations were completed on approximately 300 acres.



In partnership with Benton CD, 204 kids from 4 different schools participated in "Salmon in the Classroom."



35 producers seeded 600 new acres with the "No Toll Drill."

## 2009 Feature Accomplishment On Farm Water Quality Enhancement

### *Resource Challenge*

Water quality has significantly improved in our irrigation return drains over the last several years, but more work needs to be done. Some irrigation return drains still do not meet water quality standards for turbidity, fecal coliform, and nutrients.

Dairies and livestock operations have made great strides in reducing water quality impairment by installing best management practices to reduce or eliminate the risk of surface and ground water pollution. It is critical that these operations maintain compliance with all local state and federal laws.



Rill irrigation before conversion

### *Project Summary and Results*

The South Yakima Conservation District provided technical and cost-share assistance to 20 producers; 6 implementing Best Management Practices (BMP's) that converted their surface irrigation systems to a sprinkler or drip irrigation system. Improvements saved water and soil on 33 acres.

The Conservation Commission Livestock Program provided technical and cost-share funding to provide assistance to 30 livestock operations to implement BMP's that address water quality issues. Six Dairy Nutrient Management plans were developed.

By providing cost-share as an incentive to implement BMP's, not only do we save water and soil, we reduce the water quality contaminants such as sediment, fecal coliform, and nutrient loading from entering surface and ground water.

## Contact Information

Laurie Crowe, District Coordinator  
South Yakima Conservation District  
1116 Yakima Valley Hwy.  
Sunnyside, WA 98944-1555  
(509) 837-7911  
lc-sycd@charterinternet.com

Board of Supervisors:  
Dirk Van Slageren, Chair  
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## More Work To Do

- Implement planned projects.
- Continue to seek additional funding for technical and financial assistance to help landowners improve water quality by upgrading irrigation systems.
- Continue to work with dairy/livestock facilities to develop/update Nutrient Management Plans to maintain compliance.